



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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## New Special Management Zones off Georgia

NOAA Fisheries has published a final rule that would:

Establish 12 new special management zones (SMZs) at the sites of artificial reefs (ARs) in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Georgia.

Revise the boundaries of the seven existing SMZs that are in the EEZ.

Restrict fishing in the new and existing SMZs to rod and reel and spearfishing gear, including powerheads.

Limit the harvest and possession of South Atlantic snapper-grouper taken in the SMZs by powerheads to the applicable bag limits.

The effective date of the new SMZs is November 15, 2000.

The 19 SMZs are at the sites of ARs constructed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The ARs were constructed for the purpose of enhancing fishing opportunities for offshore sport fishermen.

All of the sites are on sandy bottoms that formerly did not support any significant fisheries. The enhanced fishing benefits created by ARs will be protected by limiting harvest of highly efficient fishing gear.

Copies of the regulatory amendment that proposed the establishment of the SMZs can be obtained from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; phone 843-571-4366; FAX: 843-769-4520.

Copies of the final rule can be obtained from Peter Eldridge, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive No., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/>.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.